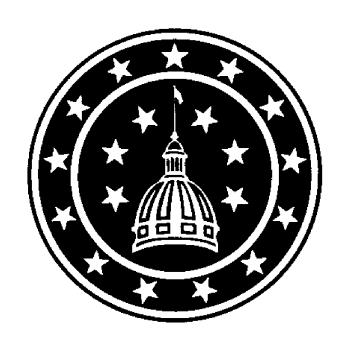
REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MATTERS EVALUATION COMMITTEE



Indiana Legislative Services Agency 200 W. Washington St., Suite 301 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789

November, 1998

Agricultural Matters Evaluation Committee

Membership Roster

<u>Senators</u> <u>Representatives</u>

David Ford, Chair Robert Bischoff
Hartford City Lawrenceburg

Johnny Nugent John Frenz
Lawrenceburg Vincennes

Katie Wolf William Friend Monticello Macy

Richard Young, Jr. Richard Mangus
Milltown Lakeville

Legislative Services Agency Staff

Al Gossard Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Steve Wenning Attorney for the Committee

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at http://www.state.in.us/legislative/.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

This Committee was to study issues related to agriculture with special attention to the following: (1) Drainage with particular attention to be paid to the issue of county control over dredged ditches until the ditch empties into a stream; (2) Cooperative Extension Service with particular attention paid to the possibility of expanding services provided to areas such as medical planning and child care; and (3) Indiana Heritage Trust Program with particular attention paid to the impact on local government and the issue of maintenance of purchased property.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met four times during the 1998 interim: June 23 (State House); July 28 (Joel Houk Farm); August 18 (State Fair Grounds); and October 13 (State House).

The evaluation reports and meeting minutes can be accessed from the General Assembly internet site at:

http://www.state.in.us/legislative/interim/committees/amec.html

III. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee voted to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional \$2.8 million be appropriated to Purdue University for county extension educators and \$400,000 for agricultural research and extension for FY2000.